REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-35 and 37-61 are pending, with claims 1, 13, 29, 39, 46, 52 and 55 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 13, 29, 39, 46, 52 and 55 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure based on a minor informality. According to the Examiner, the phrase "and associating the at least one host with the value on n" in claim 1 is incorrect. In response to this objection, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to address this specific objection. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is in order.

In the January 9, 2006 Office Action, independent claims 1 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st ¶, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

According to the Examiner (pg. 2, ¶2), "the subject matters 'one host computer operating as a host [node]' ... [and] ... 'whereby transceiver nodes beyond a transmission range of the at least one host node but within transmission range of one or more intermediate transceiver nodes accessible to said at least one host node and in wireless communication with said at least one host node become identified and accessible to said at least one host node by relaying through said ... intermediate ... nodes'" fail to comply with the written disclosure.

With respect to the foregoing, Applicant respectfully asserts the specification clearly states that "the inventive network includes a plurality of wireless transceiver nodes and one or more host devices" (see pg. 4, lines 6-8 of the specification, for example). The specification further includes a description of how the nodes intercommunicate with each other when a node is in range with another node (see pg. 4, lines 8-15 of the specification). The specification also clearly states that "the overall purpose of the network according to the present invention is to enable a plurality of users with terminal devices (e.g., mobile phones) to communicate with <u>a host computer</u> or with one another (see pg. 10, lines 18-10 and pg. 10, line 18 to pg. 11, line 14). Consequently, nodes, transceiver nodes, intermediate nodes and other nodes is fully supported by the specification. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In the January 9, 2006 Office Action, independent claims 1, 13 and 46, and dependent claims 2-12, 14-26, 30-34, 38, 43, 44, and 48-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,795,688 ("*Plasson*"). For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims of the present application are patentable over the cited references.

The Examiner (pg. 13) of the Office Action states:

Plasson discloses transceiver nodes beyond transmission range of the
at least one host node but within transmission range of one or more
intermediate nodes accessible to said at least one host node and in
wireless communication with said at least one host node become
identified and accessible to said at least one host node relaying
through said intermediate nodes has actually been interpreted in
previous office action (see Fig. 3A, Fig. 3B; column 10, lines 35-43;
column 11, lines 6 - 11; lines 20 - 47; column 12, lines 28-36).

With respect to the foregoing statement, independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite the limitation "whereby the network is configured such that transceiver nodes beyond a transmission range of the at least one host node but within transmission range of one or more intermediate transceiver nodes accessible to said at least one host node and in wireless communication with said at least one host node become identified and accessible to said at least one host node by relaying through said intermediate transceiver nodes". Independent claim 46 has been correspondingly amended. *Plasson* fails to teach this limitation. Rather, *Plasson* is directed to configuring the device itself as it is moved from location to location. *Plasson* teaches that the device may be configured to selectively enable and restrict modes of operation of the device (see col. 5, line 66 thru col. 6, line 2).

Plasson (col. 10, lines 34-43) discusses the topology of a network 200 of devices shown in FIG. 3A that can be coupled using wireless connections. However, there is nothing here with respect to the configuration of a network in the manner recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 46.

Plasson (col. 10, lines 56-59) states, "by periodic polling, the member devices of PAN **301** determine by their surrounding netscape that the netscape is in relative stasis, and thus, that the PAN **301** network is then presently [non-mobile]". *Plasson* (col. 10, lines 59-61) teaches that in this non-mobile state, the member devices assume a configuration setting conforming to a relatively low degree of mobility. Thus, *Plasson* clearly teaches that it is the device itself that is configured, not the network. All that *Plasson* (col. 12, lines 6-11) discloses is Bluetooth-enabled devices **310-370** and **390**. However, there is nothing here with respect to the configuration of a network in the manner recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 46.

Plasson (col. 11, lines 20-27) teaches a network configuration when the PAN 301 is mobile (FIG. 3A) and the case where the PAN 301 is traveling to a different location, out of range of piconet 302 and into range of device 390. However, *Plasson* fails to teach the invention recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 46.

Plasson (col. 11, lines 29-32) teaches how member devices use their surrounding netscape to determine that the netscape is in flux and thus, that the PAN 301 network is then presently mobile. *Plasson* (col. 11, lines 32-37) states, "this discovery may be made by a single PAN **301** member device, if the other member devices are in a power saving mode". *Plasson* (col. 11, lines 38-48) teaches the various configurations of the device pursuant to discovery of the status of the netscape. Consequently, the foregoing sections of *Plasson* clearly relate to the configuration of <u>a device</u>. However, there is no teaching that the network itself is configured in the manner recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 46.

Plasson (col. 12, lines 26-28) states, "a variety of characteristics can be considered in configuring a mode of operation". *Plasson* (col. 12, lines 28-30) teaches a mode of operation is selected and implemented based on a detectable change, such as movement, or a change in location, of PAN 301. *Plasson* (col. 12, lines 31-33) states, "PAN **301** is moved from one location (FIG. 3A) to a different location (FIG. 3B), or vice versa". Thus, *Plasson* teaches that it is the device that is configured as the device moves from one location to another.

In contrast, the invention is directed to <u>configuring a ...</u> **network** such that a plurality of users with terminal devices (e.g., mobile phones) are enabled to communicate with a host computer or with one another (see pg. 10, lines 15-17 of the specification). On the other hand, as previously stated, *Plasson* teaches the configuration of the <u>device</u> itself as it is moved from location to location. *Plasson* teaches that the device may be configured to selectively enable and restrict modes of operation of the device (see col. 5, line 66 thru col. 6, line 2). In view of the foregoing, independent claims 1, 13 and 46 are patentable and thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) are respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 27, 28 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over *Plasson* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,104,279 ("*Maletsky*"). Finally, independent claims 29, 39, 52 and 55, and dependent claims 37, 40-42, 45, 47 and 53, 54 and 56-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) obvious over *Plasson* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,535,498 ("*Larsson*"), and further in view of ("*Maletsky*"). For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims of the present application are patentable over the cited references.

The Examiner relies upon *Maletsky* to address the failure of *Plasson* and *Larsson* to teach the feature "wherein associated with each transceiver is a unique password, provided with each transceiver is a machine-readable tag on which is recorded the transceiver's unique address and

password and associated with the control node is a reader for reading unique addresses and passwords from the tags and storing them in a first node's transceiver list".

Larsson relates to a method for updating route information in ad hoc networks (see col. 1, lines 18-19). *Maletsky* relates to a method for communicating with a plurality of remote units, where the number and identities of the remote units unknown (see col. 1, lines 7-9). However, *Larsson* and *Maletsky* fail to teach or suggest what *Plasson* lacks, since *Larsson* and *Maletsky*, individually or in combination, fail to teach the limitation directed to transceiver nodes that are beyond the transmission range of control nodes (or a node) but within the transmission range of one or more intermediate nodes accessible to the control node (or the node), as recited in amended independent claims 29, 52 and 55. Moreover, the combination of *Plasson*, *Larsson* and *Maletsky* fails to achieve the invention recited in independent claim 39 where the network is configured such that the limitations recited in steps (a) thru (k) are performed. In view of the foregoing, independent claims 29, 39, 52 and 55 are patentable over *Plasson*, either individually or in combination with *Larsson* and/or *Maletsky*. Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of all the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are in order, and a notice to that effect is requested.

In view of the patentability of independent claims 1, 13, 29, 39, 46, 52 and 55, for the reasons set forth above, dependent claims 2-4, 6-28, 30-35, 37-38, 40-51, 53-54 and 56-61 are all patentable over the prior art.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Early passage of this case to issue is requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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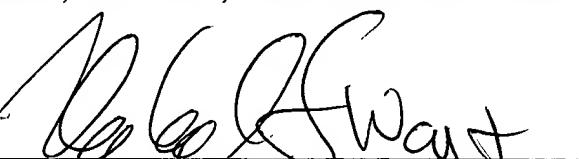
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Dated: March 9, 2006